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Electronic version



## RainScapes Rewards



MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

# RainScapes Gazette

### ***Rebates available for RainScapes!***

We just started the 2013 fiscal year, with a new budget, and are looking for applications. We encourage you to apply for your RainScapes Reward! There are 9 different rebate projects you can apply for: rain gardens, conservation landscapes, canopy trees, permeable pavers, green roofs, rain barrels, cisterns and dry wells. All rebate projects, except rain barrels, are required to be approved prior to installation to qualify for rebate funds. Approved projects should be completely installed within 6 months of approval from DEP. If you have questions about the RainScapes program please don't hesitate to contact us at:

[rainscapes@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:rainscapes@montgomerycountymd.gov)

### **RainScapes Links**

[RainScapes Main Page](#)

[RainScapes Online Applications](#)

[RainScapes Design Manuals](#)

[RainScapes Resources](#)

[RainScapes Gallery](#)

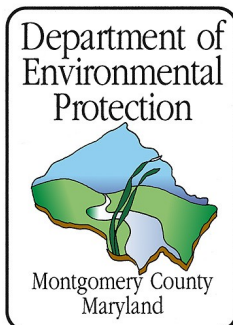


## RainScapes Tour a Success!

The first 2012 RainScapes tour was held on a beautiful morning - June 16<sup>th</sup> from 9-12. The goal was to showcase the places [where projects are installed](#) so that Montgomery County residents could go to see

what RainScapes on both public and private property look like. RainScapes and Green Streets bring beauty and health to our communities and watersheds and reduce the amount of stormwater that runs into our

streams. Attendees of the tour and volunteers for the tour were surprised at the wide geographic range and were excited to hear about the benefits of this approach.



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# RainScapes Tour Continued

The RainScapes staff would also like to acknowledge the many watershed groups and the master gardeners as well as professionals and residents who donated their time to staff the event made the day possible: Jill Coutts, Ana Arriaza, Ed Murtaugh, Mark Wilcox, Lissy Wilcox, Cate Gogol, Diane Cameron, Jenny St.

John, Paul Bogle, Darian Copiz, Kit Gage, Suzan Klein, Elaine Lamarind, Wynn Witthans, Sharon Simon, Becky Gatwood, Dylan Greer, Kathy Michaels, Kim Robinson, Wynett Isely, Ann English, Alex English, Peter English, Don English, Audra Lew, Marny Bruce, Heather Phipps, Pam Rowe, Karen Anderson, Diane

Cameron, Rosie Perthel, Lisa Wilcox-Deyo, Cally Deppen, and Rebecca Wadler.

Thank you and keep an eye out for next years tour!



## Featured RainScape

This institutional site got \$5,000 in rebates through 3 different rebate projects: a drywell, conservation landscape, and a rain garden. They chose to do all 3 because they had limited space to install an appropriately sized rain garden and they wanted to maximize their rebate value. They strategically placed a dry well and conservation landscape to intercept rain water and caught the rest in a smaller rain garden. The dry well can store 300 gallons and is capturing rain water from 550 sq. feet of impervious surface. The rain garden and conservation landscape combined capture rain water from 5,500 sq. feet of impervious surface. The rain garden and conservation landscape can store 3,750 gallons of water. This site can now capture 4,050 gallons of rainwater!



## Tree Tip: “Conservation Watering”

### Slow and Steady

Tree roots require slow, deep watering. Do not water with a spray nozzle. Instead, here are several good methods that use less water and are more effective.

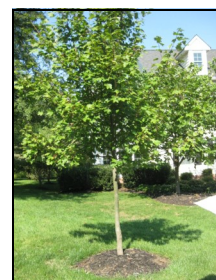
**Use a soaker hose.** A soaker hose is a specially designed hose that allows water to seep out all along the hose. Place the hose near the tree trunk. Turn the water faucet on with very low pressure for one hour. If possible, cover the hose with mulch. You can leave it in place during the summer for easy watering.

**Use clean buckets or plastic milk jugs** with tiny pin holes in the

bottom that allow water to drip out (not flow out). Place a bucket full of water near the tree trunk. Put rocks in the bottom to keep it from blowing away or falling over. Check to ensure that it takes several hours to empty and that it does empty.

**Use gator bags, or specialized tree watering bags;** they use the same slow-drip technique as above. Remove these bags from the tree once emptied of water. If left between watering, bacteria may attack your tree or rodents could eat your trees from inside the bag.

**Use your regular garden hose.** Turn on the water, then turn the faucet as near to completely off as possible but allow a little water to slowly drip out. Leave your dripping hose near the base of your tree for 1 hour on one side of the tree, and then move to another side for 1 additional hour.





## Green Streets Program

The Green Streets program is a county initiative that installs Low Impact Development (LID) landscapes in the street right-of-way. These aesthetically pleasing gardens are designed to reduce and filter stormwater that could potentially carry pollution into our streams, degrading the water quality of our local streams and rivers. These gardens help filter

stormwater by allowing the water to slow down and temporarily pond. This gives the water a chance to soak into the ground where the soil filters out the pollution. This not only helps filter water but also replenishes groundwater and base flows into our streams.

Check out the [My Green Montgomery](#) web page for more information.



## Stream Stewards Volunteer Program

The Department of Environmental Protection is launching a new volunteer program! Volunteers help the Department of Environmental Protection reach its mission of protecting and enhancing quality of life in our community through the conservation, preservation, and restoration of our environment. Volunteers help by educating Montgomery County residents about

the importance of watershed management. Volunteers help by teaching how watersheds are affected by our everyday habits, provide speaking at local venues, and by adopting local projects such as green street practices, tree plantings, or trash clean ups. Stream Stewards help to foster a sense of community pride and ownership which benefits everyone in Montgomery County. For more

information, participate in an orientation session on Saturday, August 4th at 10:00am to 12pm. Contact Ana Arriaza to register and for more information at



## RainScapes Face Book Page!

The RainScapes program now has a Face Book page! Please visit our page and post comments, ask questions, and upload pictures of your RainScape. If you don't have a RainScape, and are interested in one, please don't hesitate to ask us questions. Let us know what is working best in your yard to reduce your runoff footprint. This will be a good way to show off your RainScape as well as learn tricks of the trade to further improve your RainScape. The first 20 people to "like" our page will receive a fancy new RainScapes Wave water bottle, tote bag, and rain gauge!

Prizes can be picked it up at the fair, or, at our D.E.P office located in Rockville, MD.

**WIN THIS PRIZE →  
PACKAGE!!!**

[Face Book Link](#)



## Invasive Plant of Concern

Japanese Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is an annual that has invaded from Japan and other Asian countries. Originally, the plant was dried and used as packaging material in the 1900's. Seeds from these shipments escaped allowing this plant to take over vast swaths of woodland understory. This plants natural predators aren't present in America, allowing it to grow with out any threats. Each plant can



produce up to 1000 seeds. This makes it very important to identify, and remove this plant as soon as possible. Hand pulling is the easiest method but not the best since it disturbs the soil allowing the seeds to germinate again the following year. Mowing this plant in early September, when its about to flower, is the best way to remove it. **Warning:** You may have to mow twice. Watch for flower development!



## Invasive Insect of Concern

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According to the Maryland Department of Agriculture, an emerald ash borer was found on a purple sticky trap in Montgomery County off Shady Grove Road near Mid County Highway this summer. The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an exotic pest of ash trees. It is native to Asia and thought to have arrived in the



United States in solid wood packing material from its native Asia and was first detected in the Detroit, MI and Windsor, Ontario areas in July 2002. Because of Emerald Ash Borer, millions of ash trees have died in the central and northeastern United States. Do not transport Ash trees in or out of Montgomery County. For more information check out this link:

[MD Department of Agriculture](#)



## Native Plant Of Interest

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Obedient Plant "Miss Manners" is a cultivar of the purple flowering native obedient plant (*Physostegia virginiana*). The purple flowering obedient plant, unlike its name suggests, is a determined

spreader that can take over portions of your garden. This white flowering cultivar, which stays true to its name, is a clump former that doesn't spread. It blooms throughout summer, attracts butterflies and other pollinators, and is a great cut flower. "Miss Manners" can grow to be 24"-30" tall with a spread of 18"-24". It likes to be in full sun or light shade with a consistent soil moisture.



## Application and Book of Interest

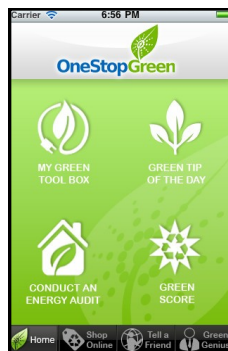
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### Application of Interest:

#### One Stop Green Mobile App

This free Mobile App allows you to receive daily green tips, includes a solar, wind, water, and lighting calculator and lets you conduct home energy audits right from your mobile phone.

[Google Link](#)



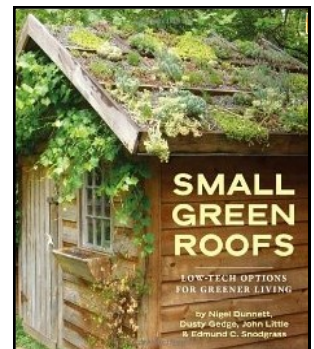
### Book of Interest:

#### Small Green Roofs: Low-Tech Options for Greener Living

*Small Green Roofs* focus is on small scale and domestic green roofs.

ISBN # 1604690593

[Google Link](#)



## Events and Links of Interest

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### LINKS:

**The Native Plant Center Link:**

<http://www.nativeplantcenter.net/>

**Chesapeake Bay Trust Website with native plant links:**

[http://www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.5457711/k.8609/Native\\_Plants.htm](http://www.cbtrust.org/site/c.miJPKXPCJnH/b.5457711/k.8609/Native_Plants.htm)

**The Federal Grants and Loans link:**

<http://www.theaosa.org/x18888.xml>

### EVENTS:

Come visit the Department of Environmental Protection Tent at the **64th annual Montgomery County Agricultural Fair**. The D.E.P. tent will have displays on the RainScapes program, the green streets program, and the stream stewards volunteer program. D.E.P staff and volunteers will be in attendance to answer any questions you may have. In addition to these displays there will be two painted rain barrels which will be raffled off and plenty of children's games.